

# Calendar

No Wednesday Night Studies

the month of July.

(5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>)

# Why Study Revelation

1. We study it because God includes it in His Word and we are to study the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).
2. We study it because it helps us understand the times in which we live  
(1 Chronicles 12:32 – People from the tribe of Issachar commended for “understanding the times”)

# Why Study Revelation

3. As we understand our “*times*” better, we are better equipped to share God's truth with others (1 Peter 3:15).
4. We take comfort from knowing God's plan from the end to the beginning (Titus 2:13)
5. An understanding of eschatology creates a desire for *holiness* within us (1 John 3:2-3).

# Why Study Revelation

**Matthew 16:3** – Religious leaders  
*condemned for not knowing* the “signs of  
the times”

**Luke 19:44** – Jesus Christ *held Israel*  
*accountable to know* when He would come  
to them (us too)

# Revelation

## Chapter 1

# Revelation 1:1

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto his servant John.”

# Overview of Chapter One

## Vss. 1-3 – Introduction

(“to show to His bond servants – that's  
US!) study it!

Olivet Discourse written to the Jews

Revelation written to the church

Vss. 4-8

**Message to the Seven Churches** (expanded  
in chapters 2-3) (Father, Spirit, Son)

O.T.- Israel God's witnesses to the world

Transition – Jesus the 'Faithful witness'

Church Age – We are His witnesses

End of the Age – (vs. 7) He is coming again



## Vss. 9-20

Vision of Christ in His glory

(He is Holy – do we treat Him as such)

The Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:3) is addressing  
His churches

He is pictured as the High Priest

The churches are the lampstand

(light-bearers – not the light itself)

<u>Gospel of John</u>	<u>Epistles</u>	<u>Revelation</u>
<p>Believe (100 x's) (20:31)</p> <p>Salvation</p>	<p>Assurance (know) (1 Jn 5:13)</p> <p>Sanctification</p>	<p>Anticipation (22:20)</p> <p>Sovereignty</p>
<p>Prophet (faithful witness)</p>	<p>Priest</p>	<p>King</p>

## John 20:30-31

Now Jesus did many other *signs* in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but *these are written* so that you may *believe that Jesus is the Christ*, the Son of God, and that **by believing** you may have **life** in his name.

# 1 John 5:13

I write these things *to you who believe*  
in the name of the Son of God, **that**  
**you may know that you have** eternal  
life.

## Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says,  
“Surely I am coming soon.” Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus!

**The seventh and last warning by the Lord  
Himself in Revelation of His coming.**

# Titles of Christ in chapter One

## Verse 5

1. “THE FAITHFUL WITNESS” (martyr)
2. “THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD”
3. “THE RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH”

## Titles of Christ in chapter One

### Verse 8

4. “THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA”
5. the one “WHO WAS, AND IS, AND IS TO COME”
6. “THE ALMIGHTY”

# Titles of Christ in chapter One

Verse 13

7. “THE SON OF MAN”



# Titles of Christ in chapter One

Verse 17

8. “I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST”

# Titles of Christ in chapter One

Verse 19

9. “THE LIVING ONE”

Revelation (singular): Apocalypse -  
“Unveiling” [Daniel sealed until the time of  
the end (Daniel 8:26)] but Revelation to  
remain unsealed because the time is at hand  
(Rev. 22:10).

The Father gave it to the Son (Jesus revealed)  
(Mark 13:32-33) [Doctrine of Imminence]

Rendered it into “signs” (sēmainō)

## Verse 2

“who **bore record**”

(martureo: martyr—witness)

44 X's in John's writings

(only 25x's rest of N.T.)

## Verse 3

He **who reads** is in the *singular*.

(*ho anaginōskōn*) Present active singular articular participle

[to gain exact knowledge of, to discern,  
especially “to read”]

It speaks of one person who reads out loud.

## Verse 3 continued

**Those who hear** is in the *plural*. It speaks of many people hearing. Custom of the early church, where attention was given to the public reading of Scripture, which would often be explained. In our modern way of speaking, John might say “Blessed is the pastor who reads and teaches Revelation, and blessed is the congregation who hears it.” But most of all, pastor or congregation, **blessed** are those who **keep those things which are written in it**.

## Verse 3 continued

“**Keep**” – the exercise of active and strenuous care. No wonder it is so attacked by Satan and so neglected by churches today.

*Luke 11:28 – But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”*

A person cannot keep what they do not possess. It is assumed that the diligent student will be able to understand and then live out these truths.

## Verse 3 continued

For **the time** is near [kairos – period of time] . . . .  
*limited period of time marked by characteristic circumstances*  
(doctrine of Imminence)

**Luke 21:24** – until the *Kairos* of the Gentiles

**1 Peter 4:7** – The *end of all things is at hand*;  
therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded  
for the sake of your prayers.



## Verse 4

*Seven:* first occurrence (Greek *hepta*) occurs fifty-four times in Revelation, more than in all the rest of the New Testament combined. Reason: the Book completes God's written revelation to man. "Seven" has been regarded in all times and places as indicating fullness or completion.

## Verse 4 continued

“churches” – local churches with real, visible members, but also churches that are representative of all churches everywhere.

# ASIA-MINOR

Pergamon

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Laodicea

Patmos



0 100 km



## Verse 4 continued

Paul wrote to seven churches:

Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi,  
Colasse, Thessolonica

Jesus is going to write to seven others in Asia  
Minor – modern day Turkey.

# Verse 4 continued

## Trinity

**God the Father:** Him who was, and is,  
and is to come

(Daniel 7:9-10 – Ancient of Days)

The “Everlasting Father” (Isaiah 57:15) “Behold the high and lofty one which inhabits eternity” (Rev 1:8; Exo 3:14; Psa 90:2, Psa 102:25-27; Isa 41:4, Isa 57:15; Mic 5:2; Joh 1:1; Heb 1:10-13)

## Verse 4 continued

### Trinity

**Holy Spirit:** (Isaiah 11:2) : Omnipresent (the 7 Spirits) fullness, completeness (Rev 3:1, Rev 4:5, Rev 5:6; Zec 3:9, Zec 4:10;)

**Isaiah 11:2** -- *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*”

# Verse 5

## Trinity

**Jesus the Son:** the Faithful witness

**John 18:37**, “Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Jesus Christ, God come in human flesh, not only came to die for our sins on the cross but also came **to reveal** the eternal God to us. As

**John 14:9** states, “if you've seen me (Jesus said) you've seen the Father.



# What's in a Name

John is using a title of Christ in chapter one that will be used again in Jesus letter to the church at Laodicea in chapter 3 verse 14. These title of Christ will used again so they are always identifiers of Jesus.

## Verse 5 continued

“First-born from the dead”

**1 Cor. 15:20-23** - *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead*

first fruits of the resurrection in the sense He rose from the dead NEVER to die again

## Verse 5 continued

'Ruler of the Kings of the Earth'. Some of your versions use the word "prince" some use ruler. The original Greek word is '**Archon**' which mean the **chief or preeminent one**. We will see this born out in Revelation 19:16 when Jesus returns as the rider on the white horse with the name written on His thigh which says, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords".

## Verse 5 continued

The ending of verse 5 is critical for us as believers in Christ today. “He (Jesus) loved us and released us from our sins by His blood”.

This verse describes the **three aspects of our salvation: past, present and future**.

## Verse 5 continued

Released us, in the *past tense*, refers to our **Justification**. (God has looked upon us and judged us as though we had never ever sinned.)

## Verse 5 continued

He “loves” us, present tense. That refers to our **sanctification**. It is the process whereby we grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ day by day. It is the process of being spiritually refined.

## Verse 5 continued

Then the future tense beginning in verse 6 where He has made us to rule and reign with Him in eternity as Kings and Priests (**glorification**)

Like the image of Christ in chapter 1

## Verse 5 continued

Verse 5 contains a summary of the gospel (died, rose, reigns).

God loved us and released us from the penalty of our sins by shedding His righteous blood on the cross. The plan of God to have Jesus die for yours and my sins was not some kind of 'plan B' in God's cosmic scheme of things. In fact, **Revelation 13:8** tells us that in God's sight, Jesus was already slain for sin before God laid the foundation of the world.



## Verse 6

*kings and priests.* See I Peter 2:9;  
Revelation 2:26,27; 20:4

“He has made us to be Kings and priests”. Future tense (we will literally rule with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom) in the future.

# Prophet, Priest & King

There have only been two people in Biblical history legitimately called to be a king and a priest. (King Saul tried).

**Melchizedek** (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6-11; 6:20—7:28).

A real person but also a type of the Christ who was to come. His name, 'Melchizedek', means King of Righteousness and he was king over the city of "Salem" (peace).

Jesus is that true **King of Righteousness** who will one day literally rule and reign from Jerusalem on the throne of King David as was prophesied to Mary through the angel Gabriel.

**Luke 1:33** - And the Lord God will give (future tense) to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

## Verse 6 continued

There is **a third king and priest**, however. The believers in Jesus Christ. Even though we are individual members we constitute **ONE BODY**. Spiritually, we are seated today with Christ **on His Father's throne** in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6) but we will literally also rule and reign with Him. (Revelation 20:6; 2 Timothy 2:12).

## Verse 7 – the Clouds

**Daniel 7:13** – “I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with **the clouds of heaven**  
there came one like a son of man, and he  
came to **the Ancient of Days** and was  
presented before him.

## Verse 8

*Alpha and Omega.* There are the first words actually spoken to John by the Lord on this occasion. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. (the Lord embodies all language and, in fact, all reality as the divine *LOGOS*. He is “the Word” (**John 1:1**), embodying “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (**Colossians 2:3**).

# Verse 8 – past present future elements of our salvation

	Past	Present	Future
God (Rev. 1:4)	Which was (John 1; Col. 1:15-17)	Which is (Heb. 7:25)	Which is to come (Rev. 1:7)
Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5)	The Faithful witness (Rev. 3:14; John 14:9)	First begotten from the dead ( 1 Cor. 15:20-23)	Prince of the Kings of the Earth ( Eph. 1:20-22)
Unto Him That (Rev, 1:5)	Loved us (1 John 4:8)	Washed us in His blood (Rev. 7:14; 1 Peter 1:18-21)	Made made us kings/priests (Rev. 5:10; 20:6; 1 Peter 2:5-9; Eph. 2:6)
Write (Rev. 1:19)	Things which thou hast seen (John 21:24; Rev. 1:12-18)	Things which are Rev. 2-3)	Things which shall be after (Rev. 4:1)
Salvation	Justification (not guilty) (Ephesians 2:8-9)	Sanctification (Positional/practical) (Romans 6)	Glorification (new bodies) (Romans 8:23)



# Kairos: Age

Only God is omnipotent (all-powerful), omnipresent (able to be present everywhere), and omniscient (all-knowing). He is the One who created time itself and is, therefore, beyond the realm of time.

# Chronos: Timeline

He knows what is coming to pass now as well as what is going to come about in the future and what He has desired for us to know about in the future is recorded in this book.

## Outside of the 'Time Domain'

Isaiah 44:6-7 – Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

(Revelation)

Go out and  
“bear the image”  
of the Eternal One!

## Allegorical vs. Literal

The allegorical (or spiritualizing) method of interpretation was prominent in the church for about 1,000 years until it was displaced during the Reformation. The Reformers sought the “plain meaning” of Scripture.

# Origen: The Good Samaritan- Luke 10

The man who is robbed is Adam, Jerusalem is paradise, and Jericho is the world. The priest is the Law, and the Levites are the Prophets. The Samaritan is Christ. The donkey is Christ's physical body, which bears the burden of the wounded man (the wounds are his sins), and the inn is the Church. The Samaritan's promise to return is the second coming of Christ.

# Allegorical vs. Literal

## The Bible Uses Allegory

Ecclesiastes 12:1–7 speaks of a dilapidated estate, but this is an allegory for the ravages of age and time upon the human body. The Old Testament sacrifices are symbolic for the greater sacrifice of Christ. When Jesus says, “I am the vine and you are the branches” (John 15:5), no one expects to find leaves and clusters of grapes sprouting from

## Allegorical vs. Literal

their arms. Even those who insist on a literal interpretation of the book of Revelation still expect “the Beast” to be a man, not an animal (Revelation 13:4).



## Allegorical vs. Literal

Gal. 4:22-26 -- or it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.


## Allegorical vs. Literal

Gal 4:24 Now this may be interpreted *allegorically*: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

# Allegorical vs. Literal


Examples: Song of Solomon - Parable of the Sower - The Prodigal Son

Book of Revelation is to be interpreted literally while understanding there are allegorical themes, types, symbols, figures of speech.



The primary challenge in studying the Book of Revelation is “how do we interpret it?”

I tend to think Revelation is more difficult to “believe” rather than difficult to interpret.



I believe so many resort to an allegorical interpretation is because they have found the literal meaning difficult to accept and have, therefore, tried to explain them in a “less offensive” level if you will.

three main approaches interpretation of Revelation

**Preterist approach:** Revelation is viewed as past history applying specifically to the issues and persecutions of the first-century church that existed at the time John recorded the book

# Historical Interpretation

the events symbolically described in Revelation represent the chronological sequence of historical events from the time first written up until the coming of Christ and the establishing of the eternal Kingdom.

# Futurist perspective

Futurist interpreters regard Revelation chapter 4 thru 22 as events still future to come about at the end of the Church Age in which we now live.

This is my personal viewpoint . . .